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Disinfection of vessel at Philadelphia on account of tuberculosis.

The following is received from Surgeon Irwin under date of March 14:

The forecastle of the tug *Valley Forge*, of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, was disinfected in accordance with instructions contained in Department Circular No. 15, February 11, 1902.

Transactions on account of yellow fever at Laredo, Tex.

The following telegrams have been received from Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick, at Laredo, Tex.:

MARCH 19, 1904.

Fumigated 31 houses, containing 68 rooms; inspected 120 premises, 367 persons, and treated 203 water containers.

MARCH 20, 1904.

Fumigating force returned to Tordillo to-day; inspected 197 premises, 779 persons, and treated 338 water containers. Sauvignet instructed as directed in Bureau telegram of yesterday.

MARCH 21, 1904.

Summary report for week ended March 19: Fumigated Minera, 89 houses, containing 254 rooms, and Palafox, 56 houses, containing 96 rooms, and at Laredo, 60 houses, containing 132 rooms. Fumigated to-day in Laredo 10 houses, containing 23 rooms. Inspected 196 premises, 674 persons, and treated 212 water containers. Temperature to-day 105° maximum and 68° minimum.

MARCH 22, 1904.

Fumigated Laredo, 32 houses containing 84 rooms. Inspected 312 premises, 1,106 persons, and treated 397 water containers. Am dividing the city into districts, selecting inspectors as fast as I can secure them. Am unable at this moment to say the number that will be required.

Correspondence relative to prevention of the recrudescence of yellow fever along the Texas-Mexican border.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, *March 5, 1904.*

State Health Officer TABOR, *Austin, Tex.:*

Have just received telegram from Frick, at Laredo, stating city council, March 3, after statement of their inability by reason of exhausted treasury, had passed the following resolution:

(Quoted in full below.)

A RESOLUTION.

Whereas it is generally believed that yellow fever exists all seasons of the year in Vera Cruz, Republic of Mexico, which point is of no great distance from Laredo, and is in daily railway communication with this city;

And whereas the warm season is rapidly approaching, and the quarantine heretofore established and maintained against Vera Cruz has not been of such nature as to inspire confidence or arrest the spread of the disease;

And whereas the city of Laredo has in the past five years suffered so intensely from the blight of droughts and epidemics that her financial condition is strained to the limit of the constitution and her treasury exhausted, and is therefore unable to

employ the means to carry on the necessary precautions to prevent a recurrence of the yellow fever during the coming warm season: Therefore be it

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Laredo, Texas, That the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States be, and it is hereby, requested to at once furnish the means and reassume the inspection, disinfection, and all other means necessary for the prevention and suppression of all contagious and infectious diseases, and especially that of yellow fever; and said city does hereby pledge itself to render all moral support and legal aid to the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States in carrying out the purpose of this resolution.

Frick recommends immediate resumption special inspection and oiling of water containers by the Service; estimated cost, with screening of fever cases, $30 per day. *Stegomyiæ* larvæ have recently been found in various portions of Laredo. Desire to have statement from you whether your Department or the State of Texas can take charge of this matter and perform the work or whether the State has the power to require the city of Laredo to do it. Kindly answer.

WYMAN.

[Telegrams.]

AUSTIN, TEX., *March 7, 1904.*

WYMAN, *Washington:*

Will communicate with Laredo authorities and advise you earliest possible.

TABOR.

AUSTIN, TEX., *March 17, 1904.*

WYMAN, *Washington:*

State of Texas will render your Department every assistance in continuing sanitary work and inspection service at Laredo and would like to see you place larger force there immediately. Full authority and any other assistance your men require will be given, but this department will retain control of quarantine in the State.

TABOR.

WASHINGTON, *March 18, 1904.*

TABOR, *Health Officer, Austin, Tex.:*

With approval Secretary Treasury propose to act in accordance with your telegram of March 17 and on request of city council of Laredo.

WYMAN.

[Letter.]

WASHINGTON, *March 16, 1904.*

Dr. GEORGE R. TABOR,
State Health Officer, Austin, Tex.

DEAR DOCTOR: Referring to my telegram to you to-day, stating that Assistant Surgeon Richardson, who has recently passed his examination for promotion to be passed assistant surgeon, has been assigned to duty at Laredo, I have to inform you that this is done as part of a plan for the coming summer and fall.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegrams.]

WASHINGTON, *March 16, 1904.*

RICHARDSON (through Wertenbaker, New Orleans, La.):

Relieved from duty at New Orleans. Proceed to Laredo, Tex., as representative of Service. Confer with Frick and Hamilton and report to Bureau all facts bearing upon prevention recrudescence yellow fever in Laredo and vicinity; also bearing upon prevention introduction from Mexico. Frick and Hamilton ordered to report to you. You will have general supervision their work, but advise you continue them on present lines.

WYMAN.

WASHINGTON, *March 16, 1904.*

FRICK, *Laredo, Tex.:*

Situation demands additional officer. Richardson ordered from New Orleans. Report to him. Bureau thoroughly satisfied with your work, but additional force required.

WYMAN.

WASHINGTON, *March 16, 1904.*

HAMILTON, *Laredo, Tex.:*

Have ordered Richardson as Service representative. Report to him. He will continue you in your present work.

WYMAN.

[Letter.]

WASHINGTON, *March 21, 1904.*

Asst. Surg. T. F. RICHARDSON,

Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Laredo, Tex.

SIR: Confirming telegram of to-day, which concluded with the statement "letter follows," addressed to Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick, I transmit herewith a memorandum outlining the plan of operations which the Bureau considers necessary at the present time in Laredo, Tex.

It will be observed that to carry out the measures indicated some provision should be made by the city council for penalties for failure to comply with the requirements. It may be advisable also that an ordinance be passed authorizing the inspections and other requirements mentioned in the memorandum together with the penalty.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,
Surgeon-General.

MEMORANDUM—LAREDO, TEX.

MARCH 18, 1904.

1. The city council should pass an ordinance requiring both physicians and all householders to report to the city health officer every case of fever coming within their knowledge. By "fever" is meant fever of any character, whether it is deemed malarial, or from a cold, or rheumatism, or any other cause.

2. Every case of fever as described in paragraph 1 shall be immediately covered with a mosquito netting until its removal is authorized by the city health officer. The householder will he held responsible for seeing that this provision is enforced. If the patient or his friends, or the householder, is unable to supply said mosquito netting the same will be furnished on application by the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

3. Every such case, as soon as reported, will be immediately visited by the city health officer, or his accredited medical agent, who shall report to the health officer; and the said mosquito netting shall be kept over the patient until permission is given by the city health officer or agent, in writing, for its removal.

4. If the health officer considers the case suspicious of yellow fever, unless the diagnosis of yellow fever is positively excluded, he shall place a guard at the house to see that the mosquito netting is kept over the patient.

5. A house to house inspection must be immediately organized. The city should be divided into twenty or thirty districts and a lay inspector appointed for each district, whose whole time shall be given to the inspection. Of first importance is the discovery of cases, but report of inspector should include sanitary conditions, particularly as regards water barrels and other places where mosquitoes might breed. Each inspector should go over his whole district daily, Sundays included.

6. Fumigation to destroy mosquitoes should be made for all such fever cases as in the opinion of the health officer require it. This shall not only include the houses containing such cases, but such adjoining premises and houses as the health officer may indicate.

7. Blank forms should be furnished the inspectors who make the house-to-house inspection, and these forms should also contain a blank space for reporting on the cisterns and water barrels, etc., whether the same are covered to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

8. An ordinance should be passed inflicting a fine upon householders on whose premises the larvæ of mosquitoes are found, at the same time the ordinance should require all water containers to be so screened or treated with petroleum as to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. Notice should be given that any householder unable to provide the necessary covering or petroleum will have the same furnished upon application to the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

9. On the report of the inspector showing that any of the above requirements have been neglected, the health officer will immediately remedy the defects and report the cases to the proper legal authority for prosecution. The health officer shall have power to suspend the penalty in his discretion if the defect complained of is immediately remedied.

10. When in the opinion of the health officer a case suspected of being yellow fever can not be efficiently screened and treated at the patient's home, the health officer shall have power to transfer the patient to a properly screened fever sanitarium.

[Telegram.]

MARCH 22, 1904.

Dr. L. W. COCK, *San Marcos, Tex.:*

Proceed immediately to Laredo and report to Frick, until arrival of Richardson; then report to him.

WYMAN.

INSPECTION SERVICE, MEXICAN BORDER.

Inspection at Eagle Pass, Tex.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hume reports, March 12, as follows:

	Week ended March 12.
Persons inspected	219
Persons held	0
Pullman cars fumigated	7

Inspection at El Paso, Tex.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Alexander reports, March 14, as follows: Week ended March 12, 1904.

Mexican Central passengers inspected, 217; Raymond and Whitecomb excursion inspected, 102; Mexican immigrants inspected, 74;